



Roundtable

Circular Economy - Fostering Circularity in Food Trade

16 November 2021, 13:00-15:00 (CET)
On-line, Geneva

Background and context

At its sixty-ninth session the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) committed to step up efforts to promote circular economy approaches and the sustainable use of natural resources by mainstreaming circularity and the sustainable use of natural resources in the existing relevant UNECE sectoral work programmes as appropriate.

A circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources means that raw materials are used as long and as frequently as possible. In the agri-food sector it implies minimizing the use of external inputs into production processes, closing nutrient loops, reducing negative discharges to the environment in the form of wastes and greenhouse gas emissions, minimizing food loss along supply chains, and recycling or using agricultural and food wastes. As such, a circular and resource efficient approach can help reduce the ecological footprint of agriculture, including the use of land, fertilizers, and the generation of waste.

Held on the side-lines of the 76th session of the UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards, as part of a UNECE project on Accelerating the transition towards a Circular Economy in the UNECE region, the aim of the roundtable is to explore the links between circular economy and agri-food production, trade and standards, including in relation to food loss and waste.

Tentative programme

13.00 – 13.10	Opening remarks Olga Algayerova, United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
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13.10 – 14.40	<p>Circular economy, agri-food value chains and trade</p> <p>The transition to a more circular economy will require rethinking agriculture and food value chains, not only at the production stage but also at trading and retail stages. The session will discuss the links between circular economy, agricultural production, and agri-food trade, exploring what the transition to more circular economies will mean for production and trade in agri-food value chains.</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Elisabeth Tuerk, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE</p> <p>The Big Food Redesign: regenerating nature with the circular economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation by Gaelle Le Gelard, Design manager of the Food initiative, Ellen MacArthur Foundation <p>Panel discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Céline Giner, Agricultural Policy Analyst, Agro-Food Trade and Markets Division, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD - Shane Ward, Professor of Biosystems Engineering, University College Dublin - Claes Johansson, Head of Sustainable Development, Lantmännen, Sweden - David Baldock, Senior Fellow, Agriculture and Land Management Programme, Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) - Santiago Fernandez de Cordoba, Senior Economist, UNCTAD and Coordinator of the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS) - Nuray Akan Yaltirakli, National Project Coordinator/Regional Coordinator, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) - Burçak Yüksel, Acting Head of Monitoring and Evaluation Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Republic of Turkey <p>Q&A and discussion</p>
14.40 – 14.50	<p>Summary and closing</p> <p>Teresa Moreira, Head, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD</p> <p>Elisabeth Tuerk, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE</p>

To attend, please register at: <https://bit.ly/3EZ993K>

For more information, see: <https://unece.org/trade/events/roundtable-circular-economy-fostering-circularity-food-trade> or contact Marit Nilses, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), nilsesm@un.org